

SECTIONS 4(C) AND 10 HUNTER EDUCATION QUESTIONS

Q: Is it ok to use the excess value of volunteer instructor donated time for use in our shooting range development program?

A: Sorry, no. An in-kind contribution can only be used in the project grant in which it was generated. Construction projects are usually proposed in separate grants. However, you can use volunteer time on the construction project as match. For example, if club members donate time to build shooting benches, etc.

Q: Can I allow volunteers to charge course fees for hunter education?

A: Yes. However, they may not charge for their services as instructors. They may only charge a reasonable fee to offset out-of-pocket expenses that are not reimbursed by the State¹. If they generate income from the hunter education program then the State must report it as program income on the pertinent grant Agreement. The State should advise volunteers that the IRS will be interested in this income and that accurate records should be kept.

Q: Can the Agency charge a course fee, charge for course materials, or for issuing duplicate hunter education certificates?

A: Yes. However, it must be accounted for as program income.

Q: Can "underage" students be prevented from attending the hunter education course?

A: Yes and No. Since your hunter education program receives Federal funding, you must assure that all non-discrimination requirements are met (age, handicap, sex, and minority). However, if you have a State law which prevents certain age groups from participating you may be able to legally limit their participation in the hunter education program. Be careful with this one. Many States have age limits for big-game hunters but no age limits for small game hunters. If they can hunt in your State you must allow them to participate in the hunter education program. Your instructors must apply the same completion standards for these students. Some States offer "certificates of attendance" rather than certification for students who have not mastered materials yet.

¹ A State can refer to a State, Commonwealth, and/or territory.

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Q: How long must the basic hunter education course be? How many hours is enough?

A: It depends. Federal Assistance has not assigned a minimum course length. The length of your course should be determined by course content (the number and complexity of objectives to be accomplished) and the ability of your students to achieve program objectives. Setting a minimum course length without considering the State's Hunter Education Program objectives could result in an arbitrary course limitation. Each State may determine the minimum course length to meet their particular needs. However, if a State sets a minimum course length which is less than the "nationally" recognized standard (see [International Hunter Education Association \(IHEA\) Web site](#) and their Hunter Education Standards) may cause licensing and reciprocity problems for your hunters who plan to hunt in States which have longer course lengths.

Q: Are expenses incurred by agency law enforcement personnel in collecting hunting accident data reimbursable through hunter education funds?

A: Yes, as long as the data they collect are primarily for hunter education use (annual accident summary, accident case studies for lesson plans, program evaluation, etc.). Enforcement of game and fish laws, including routine patrol, investigations, and law enforcement training are not approvable hunter education activities.

Q: Is it okay to rent shooting range facilities for hunter education live firing activities?

A: Yes. Shooting range facilities may be rented or leased for hunter education use.

Q: What does "accessible" really mean? Must special courses be provided for every handicapped individual who requests a course?

A: Accessible means that your program, when viewed in its entirety, is accessible to qualified handicapped persons. You are not required to provide special courses on a demand basis for every individual who requests one. However, you should make every reasonable effort to provide access for any individual who requests a course. See the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Guidelines For Complying With Federal Non-Discrimination Requirements](#).

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Q: Can the State put Section 4 and Section 10 funded projects or activities on the same Grant Agreement?

A: Yes. But the proposed activities and related accomplishments should be clearly separated by funding source in the project statement and annual performance report.

Q: Where can I get more information on Section 4 and Section 10 HE funding?

A: Contact your State Federal Assistance (Hunter Education Coordinator) Coordinator or your regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Assistance Office for more information. Included at the end of the FAQ section is a table highlighting the differences and similarities between section 4(c) and section 10 hunter education funds.

Q: How do the Hunter Education Standards from the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) fit in?

A: The IHEA standards are voluntary guidelines for learning outcomes. They were developed cooperatively between IHEA, USFWS and other hunting related organizations.

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